

**From:** steve  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/26/02 1:34am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Microsoft has not risen to where it is today by innovation or product quality, but by purloining others technologies into their fundamentally faulty suite of products.

By virtue of simply being in the right place at the right time some 20 years ago, they aquired a toe hold that then became a foot hold in a new and burgeoning industry.

As this foot hold grew, it came to be able to at first just kick its way around, but then learned it could walk all over anyone it chose at anytime it choose.

Just because it could didn't mean it had to, but it did. At almost every opportunity. Thus they in effect became the sole arbiter of what products would survive and what ones languished in this new industry.

Were the "Standard" they purport to represent a legitimate one based on performance that would be one thing, but it isn't. When MS released Windows-XP recently they touted it as the "Most mature and secure OS they'd ever made!". While that may be true, in terms of the rest of the world it was anything but secure.

Within a few weeks of its release, severe security issues were found by several independent parties. Severe enough that for the first time in its history, the FBI called its own news-conference to announce the dangers they conveyed.

Furthermore, when Microsoft tried to post the fixes XP required to their own site recently, they crashed it, taking it offline for over 5 days.

While the irony of the "Most advanced and secure OS!" requiring a 'fix' just 2-3 weeks post-release that when applied created a new, bigger and and even more obvious problem is not to be missed. It is a demonstration of the low level of fundamental quality inherit in their software.

This not a unique example, only the most recent (and perhaps most telling). The U.S.Army, Navy, and FBI have, along with many other .gov sites, dispensed with their Windows based servers as they tired of being hacked so readily.

MICROSOFT IS/HAS/BEEN/ALWAYS WILL BE: Pervasively aggressive in all areas of its endeavors. It has copied even its core functional approach and appearance from outside sources (while stifling most competing efforts regardless of their actual merit).

No amount of money can compensate for the loss of the dynamic society could have had if innovation in a broad field of players had been allowed. If free-market values and innovation had been at play instead of a singularly self-centered corporate one, this issue would represent less today than it does.

Any judgment or penalty against MS should go to developing other sources/venues of hardware/software innovation etc. that DON'T depend on Microsoft products to function. Otherwise, the penalty actually create's more need for the already intrusive offender.

Thanks for your time.

This is important, please do the right thing.

---

Do You Yahoo!?

Great stuff seeking new owners in Yahoo! Auctions!  
<http://auctions.yahoo.com>